



## News Release

For Immediate Release:

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### **Workers at Crown Point's Lake County Greenhouse Corporation eligible for federal aid**

INDIANAPOLIS (June 23, 2006) – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that former employees of Crown Point's Lake County Greenhouse Corporation are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).

The TAA program, which is administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with the Department of Labor and it must be approved before benefits can be released. A company official filed a petition on behalf of the workers on January 24, 2006.

The Department of Labor surveyed the subject firm's major customers regarding their purchases of roses in 2004, 2005, and January 2006. The survey revealed that respondents increased their reliance on imports while correspondingly decreasing purchases from the subject firm in the relevant period. Consequently, workers at the plant qualified for TAA benefits and the findings were certified on April 25, 2006. With the ruling, any employee who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment on or after January 14, 2005 through April 25, 2008 is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for alternative trade adjustment assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers at the Crown Point Lake County Greenhouse Corporation facility. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits or a wage subsidy of 50% of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

Eligible parties may contact the Hammond WorkOne at (219) 933-8332, or any WorkOne Center for more information.

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